

IN MEMORIAM:  
DR. J. FRANCES ALLEN, APRIL 14, 1916–FEBRUARY 11, 2011\*



Dr. J. Frances Allen, 1944 (Photograph courtesy of Lockie Jo Allen)



Dr. J. Frances Allen, ca. 1980 (Photograph courtesy of Lockie Jo Allen)

Dr. J. Frances Allen, a biologist with broad training and experience, including malacology, was a longtime friend of *Malacologia* and the Institute of Malacology, and served as advisor in the early days before the journal was formally established, and continued her interest and support of the journal throughout the rest of her life. She referred to the Sponsor Members of the Institute of Malacology as “my boys,” and was proud of their accomplishments.

Dr. Allen was born in Arkville, New York, the daughter of J. W. Allen and Mattie Jo Linkous Allen. She attended schools in Owego and Roxbury, New York, graduating from Roxbury Central High School in 1934. Dr. Allen attended Radford State Teachers College (now Radford University), Radford, Virginia, receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in 1938. During the

summer of 1937 she received training at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Solomons Island, Maryland, and during the summer of 1938 she took courses at the University of Virginia’s Mountain Lake Biological Station. During the years 1938–1946, J. Frances Allen taught secondary school science in Virginia, West Virginia and New York State, and during the summers of 1942, 1944 and 1945 she was Assistant Professor of Science at Radford State Teachers College. While teaching in Virginia, Dr. Allen was one of the founders of the Virginia Junior Academy of Science and became its first Secretary. She was Biological Examiner for the New York State Department of Education during the summer of 1946. In the fall of 1946, she entered the University of Maryland’s graduate school, receiving the Master of Science

\*Modified from the *Northern Virginia Daily*, February 16, 2011



degree in 1948, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1952. At the University of Maryland, J. Frances Allen was a graduate assistant during the years 1947–1948, instructor 1948–1952, Assistant Professor of Zoology and member of the graduate faculty 1952–1958.

In 1958, Dr. Allen joined the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington, D.C., as Associate Program Director of the Systematic Biology Program. In 1967 She left the National Science Foundation to become Chief of the Water Quality Requirements Branch, Office of Research and Development, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (later named the Federal Water Quality Administration, and, subsequently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]). Among her many contributions while at EPA, Dr. Allen initiated the Biota of Freshwater Ecosystems Identification Manuals, which provided for freshwater biologists means to identify the myriad aquatic organisms in the country's freshwaters. At the time of her retirement in 1982, Dr. Allen was Staff Scientist-Ecology for the Science Advisory Board, Office of the Administrator, EPA. Among the awards she received were the Sustained Superior Performance Award from the National Science Foundation, and a Bronze Medal from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Allen was the United States Representative to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) World Conference on Water Quality in Paris, France, in 1973. In 1974, she attended the first International Congress on Ecology at The Hague, in the Netherlands.

In addition to her membership in various scientific organizations, Dr. Allen was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences, Co-Sponsor *Emerita* of the Institute of Malacology, a trustee and member of the Executive Committee of the Sport Fishery Research Foundation, and she was one of the first Certified Fisheries Scientists. For nine years, Dr. Allen was editor of the American Fisheries Society retiree's newsletter, *Homopiscis rusticus*.

Among scholastic honor societies, Dr. Allen was elected Kappa Delta Pi (International Honor Society in Education), Pi Gamma Mu (International Honor Society in Social Sciences), Chi Beta Phi (National Honor Society to Support Collegiate Women), Sigma Xi (The Scientific Research Society), and Sigma Delta Epsilon (Graduate Women in Science).

In 1987, Dr. Allen was honored by the American Fisheries Society by the establishment and endowment of the J. Frances Allen Scholarship. This scholarship for \$2500 is awarded annually to a female doctoral candidate whose emphasis is in the field of fisheries science. The intent of the scholarship is to encourage women to become fisheries professionals.

The Institute of Malacology is in the process of establishing a student scholarship fund specifically for the field of malacology.

Dr. Allen retired to upstate New York and died near Oneonta, N.Y.

John B. Burch